

ICE PILED 20 FEET ABOUT POTOMAC

Destruction of Navy Rescue Tug in Gulf Considered Certain—Navy Dep't Gets Particulars—Orders Given for Crew to Seek Safety.

With ice piled to a height of 20 feet about her, and hemmed in on all sides, in the gulf of St. Lawrence the chances that the naval tug Potomac will survive the ice pressure are considered mighty slim. Her crew is in no immediate danger, but it is believed that they will be forced to abandon the craft. Extra supplies were sledged over the ice to the tug on Saturday, there being about 20 tons of coal on board and food and provisions sufficient to last 15 days or more.

A message received by the navy department at Washington Saturday from the commander of the Potomac, Boatswain Wilkinson, states that the craft will probably be lost. Ice is piled 20 feet high about the vessel, the message said, and a southerly wind would force the whole mass in-

to the Straits of Belle Isle, crushing the tug.

The message of Boatswain Wilkinson came in response to an offer from the Navy Department to send the tug Senoma to the Potomac's assistance. In his message from North Point, N. F., Boatswain Wilkinson said:

"Do not think it possible for Senoma to reach Potomac, ice 20 feet thick at present, great risk of being crushed, from best local knowledge southerly wind will carry Potomac north, which will endanger her going through Straits of Belle Isle, if so destruction certain."

Acting Sec. Roosevelt instructed Wilkinson to make the safety of the Potomac's crew the first consideration, and to call upon the department for any assistance that in his judgment could be tendered. Navy officials fear that the loyalty of Boatswain Wilkinson and his men to their craft will make them take too great a hazard in standing by her.

FRENCH GREAT FISHERMEN.

With Few Exceptions Object Is the Taking of Coarse Fish.

All France fishes—men, women and children—so that it truthfully might be considered as the national pastime, for never have we seen anything to compare with it elsewhere, says Scribner's Magazine.

Fishing clubs and societies abound wherever there is any water more important than the village duck pond, most of them leagued into large organizations; but, with exceedingly few and recent exceptions, their object is the taking of coarse fish and even where there are trout they are usually considered rather as a side issue, save on those rare streams where there is nothing else.

It was on our first visit to the valley of the Durdent that we asked an old peasant, past whose garden the river ran, if there was good fishing there.

"No!" he replied disgustedly "nothing but trout." There were plenty of those at his very door, but he could not sit on a campstool or in a flat-bottomed boat under a large white cotton umbrella, with three or four rods fastened out in front of him, and watch the floats bob while he dozed in the sun, rousing now and then to the joy of a capture. No trout for him!

You can by no means put implicit trust in what the people tell you, for a

milliner will scowl and, even as you watch a beautiful rise, assert that there isn't a fish in the river; while an old woman eager to chat will invite you in her garden, offer you a seat, assure you that there are whales everywhere, and ply you with fruit and advice as long as you stay, which probably will be only until you have grasped the fact that there never was anything better than eels and chub within miles.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Francis P. Mesquita arrived at Shelburne, Thursday, and cleared for fishing.

Sch. John Hays Hammond cleared from Halifax Thursday for the fishing ground.

Lost Cable and Anchor.

During the storm of Thursday last, sch Tecumseh lost her cable and anchor which she parted down off Chatham.

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Portland Fish Notes.

The fleet of Portland fishing vessels hugged the wharves all day Sunday, the only two making harbor being schs. Marion Turner and Eleanor, which came in early in the day, both having small fares. The Turner was badly iced up, having been fishing at the eastward.

CREW ABANDON THE POTOMAC

Forced to Flee Over Ice to Shore— Safely at Bonne Bay—Craft Disappeared During Gale—Probably Crushed.

Deciding that it would be certain death to take any further chances with the ice, the 36 officers and crew of the tug Potomac abandoned their craft Saturday night and landed at Bonne Bay, N. F., according to advices received at St. John's.

Driven seaward before the gale of Sunday, the tug soon disappeared from the range of shore observation. Heavy floes of ice piled about the Potomac and in view of the adverse conditions, the crew wisely abandoned her. It is feared that the Potomac will be crushed or sink under the pressure of the heavy ice.

Several of the Potomac's crew are reported to be suffering from frozen feet when they reached shore. Boatswain Wilkinson reports that the tug has lost her propeller, rendering her practically helpless in the ice. Yesterday she was last sighted north of Parson's pond, nearly 50 miles from Bonne Bay.

It is current belief among the skippers and owners here that the Potomac

will never survive the treacherous. In her disabled condition, with no one on board, her chances are mighty slim. Even though she should survive, highly improbable that she would be sea worthy again, for to with the pressure and the tremendous weight of the crushing ice floes would be even than a stiffer steamer could be able larger could ever stand.

The action of the department in sending a craft to the west coast this time of the year, especially without first having taken on board a pilot, thoroughly conversant with knowledge of conditions there, is severely criticised by many skippers and fishermen. It is not so much a matter of concern in the present time now that the Potomac's crew is ashore, but what might happen in future cases, where under more favorable conditions, the presence of a vessel would mean much to the local fishermen who go to west coast each year for prosecution of the herring fishery. There is no doubt, however, that the government will be pretty careful in the future and it will probably more than the ordinary arguments secure relief in this direction again.

SCH. GOV. FOSS HAS SAILS TORN

Sch. Gov. Foss, Capt. Fred Thompson, arrived at Liverpool, N. S., having been crippled in the gale of Sunday off the Nova Scotia shore. She put in with her sails gone, and some small spars broken. It will be necessary for her to make repairs before resuming fishing.

Conditions in Newfoundland.

St. John's Newfoundland, houses report the smallest stocks ever held there at this time of year. As against this, however, shipments from Newfoundland to foreign markets are very much in excess of 1913, which means that the total supplies in producing centres and in the foreign markets are very near the average. Shipments from August to date approximate 150,000 quintals greater than during the corresponding period a year ago. Had the Newfoundland centres held back some of the supplies the foreign market would probably be in a better state today.—Maritime Merchant.

Androscoggin at Halifax.

The revenue steamer Androscoggin, which left Portland on Tuesday for the Newfoundland coast to the U. S. navy tug Potomac, arriving at Halifax on Friday awaiting orders from Washington, it being expected that she will be sent to Portland.

Bound for New York Mark.

Sch. Elizabeth N. of Bucksport, of the T. N. Nicholson fleet, port, en route to New York, with a cargo of 1000 barrels of frozen herring, 100 barrels of pickled herring to ton market.

Astray and Picked Up.

During the dense fog last night, a fisherman from sch. Juno, port, missed his vessel and was picked up by a Lockport vessel brought in at Lockport, N. S. after he returned to the Juno.

Ice in Portland Harbor.

The United States Revenue Cutter Woodbury was ordered out to break up the ice among the wharves in Portland harbor. This was necessary in order to commodate the mail steamers to Portland.

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PLUGGED HER IN THROUGH GALE

Sch. Aspinet Only Craft at
T Wharf—Lost 20 Tubs
of Trawl.

One arrival put in at T wharf during the night, sch. Aspinet, Capt. Kate Brigham, reporting with a 30,000

Capt. Brigham reported heavy weather outside, having lost 20 tubs of trawl on the trip out. Fish were in big demand this morning, the market having been cleaned up as far as roundfish is concerned.

Opening prices were high, wholesale dealers paying \$5 to \$11 a hundred pounds for haddock, \$7.50 to \$8.50 for large and \$4.50 to \$6.50 for market cod, \$4 to \$7 for hake, \$5.50 for pollock and \$3 for cusk.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:
Sch. Aspinet, 12,000 haddock, 18,000 cod, 1000 hake.

Haddock, \$5 to \$11 per cwt.; large cod \$7.50 to \$8.50; market cod \$4.50 to \$6.50; hake, \$4 to \$7; pollock, \$5.50; cusk, \$3.

FISH EXPORTERS CALL IT DULL

Says the—Halifax Maritime Merchant.

The exporters find the situation very dull, chiefly owing to the lack of demand in Porto Rico. Consumption in that island has proved disappointing and prices ruling barely cover cost; in fact, a number of consignments that have gone forward have resulted in considerable loss. The present outlook is a little more encouraging, as stocks in Porto Rico are light and there is a tendency to hold back consignments for higher values. The Jamaica business has also been disappointing, owing to Newfoundland houses unloading second grade fish or even lower grades. The other West India markets are in fairly good shape and are taking fish with a fair margin of profit.

The Oporto market continues demoralized owing to very heavy stocks and a very poor demand. Italy is readily absorbing all the first class fish that is offered and now that supplies of No. 1 fish are exhausted is taking some No. 2 quality at record prices. The situation in the Mediterranean generally is strong so that land.

There is a good demand from Southern Brazil and exporters have advanced their ideas about two shillings per drum. No improvement is expected for in Southern Brazil, owing to very adverse financial conditions.

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GILL NETTERS FARED BETTER

Several of Them Got Fish
Yesterday—Sch. Marsala
in From Georges.

The first off-shore arrival here for several days is sch. Marsala from a Georges handlining trip, her haul being for 5000 weight of salt cod, 2500 pounds of fresh fish and 3000 pounds fresh halibut.

The gill netters fared better yesterday than for some time, securing 20,000 pounds in all. Haddock have not made their appearance on the shore yet, but as soon as any catches are made, the smaller boats of the fleet will be getting underway again.

Yesterday's catches of the off shore steamers ran largely pollock, while the inshore boats had mostly cod.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Marsala, Georges handlining, 5000 lbs. salt cod, 2500 lbs. fresh fish, 3000 lbs. fresh halibut.

Str. Dolphin, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Medomak, gill netting, 800 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. R. J. Killick, gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Ethel, gill netting, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Naomi Bruce, gill netting, 3000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Little Fannie, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Bethulia, beam trawling, 1000 lbs. fresh fish, 10 bbls. flounders.

Str. Quoddy, gill netting, 4700 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Robert and Edwin, gill netting, 1200 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Quartette, gill netting, 900 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Lorena, gill netting, 575 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Gertrude T., gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. James M. Gifford, gill netting.

Sch. Stranger, shore.

Sch. Leonora Silveria, shore.

Sch. Edith Silveria, shore.

Sch. Mary F. Sears, shore.

Sch. Russell, shore.

Sch. Adeline, shore.

Sch. Harriett, shore.

Sch. Mary P. Goulart, shore.

Sch. Jeanette, shore.

Sch. Mary DeCosta, shore.

Sch. Jorgina, shore.

Sch. Priscilla Smith, shore.

Sch. Manomet, shore.

Sch. Rose Standish, shore.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Essex, St. Pierre, Miquelon.

Sch. T. M. Nicholson, Newfoundland.

Sch. Laverna, haddocking.

Sch. Arethusa, haddocking.

Sch. Leonora Silveria, haddocking.

Sch. Elmer E. Gray, halibuting.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$5.75 per cwt.; medium, \$4.75; snappers, \$3.50

Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$5.00; medium, \$4.50.

Georges halibut codfish, large, \$5.50; mediums, \$4.50.

Cusk, large, \$2.50; mediums \$2.00; snappers, \$1.50

Haddock, \$2.00.

Hake, \$2.00.

Pollock, \$2.00.

Fresh Fish.

Splitting prices:

Haddock, \$1.15 per cwt.

Eastern cod, large, \$2.25; medium, \$2.00; snappers, 75c

Western cod, large, \$2.50; medium, \$2.15; snappers, 75c.

All codfish, not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than the above.

Hake, \$1.15.

Cusk, large, \$2.00; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 50c.

Dressed pollock, 90c; round, 80c.

Newfoundland bulk salt herring, \$3.50 per bbl.

Newfoundland pickled herring, \$4.50 per bbl.

Newfoundland frozen herring, 3 1-2c per lb.

Fresh halibut, 18c per lb for white and 14c for gray.

Pickled Fish.

Supplies of herring are getting very short. The American market has absorbed a great many thousand barrels, which has cut down supplies to the West Indies. There is not sufficient stock in sight to cover the ordinary West India requirements. Prices on herring have advanced about 25 cents a barrel. With a free entry of fish into the United States there should be a large increase in the production of pickled herring in the Maritime Provinces.

There are full supplies of mackerel and salmon for the West Indies trade and the demand for these fish is disappointing. Supplies of alewives are short and the price is steadily advancing—Halifax Maritime Merchant.

Lunenburg Notes.

Another line addition was made to the Lunenburg fishing fleet Tuesday morning with the launching of the schooner J. Henry McKenzie, from Smith and Rhuland's ship yard. The dimensions of the new vessel are: 126 feet over all, 26 feet beam, and 10 feet 10 inches hold, and is 109 tons register. She will sail from the firm of W. C. Smith and Company, limited, and will be commanded by Capt. Arch Geldert. She is a splendid type of vessel and presents a fine appearance.

The Fishermen's Marine Insurance company held their annual meeting Tuesday at the office of the secretary, Colonel J. E. Richardson. The statement showed receipt of the gross amount of \$5,576 in premiums. There were no losses during the year. A six per cent. dividend was declared and paid to the shareholders. The company is one of the gilt-edge investments of the town and as its name denotes, practically all the shareholders and underwriters are fishermen or men interested in the fishing business. All the old directors were re-appointed.

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WARNS FISHERS FROM PACIFIC

Too Many There Now Writes
Halibut Fishermen's Union
Secretary-Treasurer.

The following communication from the Halibut Fishermen's Union of the Pacific was received this morning, which explains itself:

Halibut Fishermen's Union of the Pacific, Headquarters.
Seattle, Wash., Feb. 11, 1914.

Editor Gloucester Daily Times:

Dear Sir:—We have been informed that the cod fishing interests here are sending back east for fishermen. I beg leave to inform you, that this coast is now overrun with fishermen, and the only reason the owners send for more is because the cod fishermen here want from \$40 to \$50 per thousand. The halibut market here is also badly shot to pieces, and we have hundreds of men idle. We would greatly appreciate if you would advertise these facts, so that the men back there will not be fooled, as so often is the case.

I remain very respectfully yours,
P. B. GILL,

Secretary-Treasurer.

FERTILIZER PLANTS ARE HIT

Cong. Gardner Will Oppose
Bill Which Would Affect
Concerns Here.

Representative Gardner will appear before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce Wednesday to oppose part of the bill to regulate the transportation of fish for fertilizing purposes. This bill provides that no edible fish as fertilizer shall be transported in interstate traffic, on the ground that food thus is wasted and the high cost of living is maintained.

Mr. Gardner will argue that the bill goes to an unreasonable extreme, and will affect glue factories in his district which use parts of such fish in their business.

ASKS BOUNTY ON FISH THAT PREY

One hundred federal fertilizer reduction plants along the Atlantic coast from Hatteras to Eastport are proposed in a bill by Representative Donovan of Connecticut. He asked Congress to pay a bounty for all fish which prey upon food fish and turn them into fertilizer at the federal plants.

